

We Claim:

1. A collapsible container comprising:
a base member;

5 at least one support member for supporting an object placed in the container, the at least one support member rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between an essentially flat configuration and an extended configuration; and

10 means for bearing a load exerted by the at least one support member when an object is placed in the container while in the extended configuration, the means for bearing a load adapted to resist movement of the at least one support member in a direction caused by the load.

- 15 2. The collapsible container of claim 1, the at least one support member comprising a plurality of semi-elliptical loop segments.

20 3. The collapsible container of claim 2, the means for bearing a load comprising at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the support members.

25 4. The collapsible container of claim 3, the at least one hook comprising a plurality of hooks wherein one of the hooks is affixed to alternating support members and adapted to receive a portion of an adjacent support member when the container is in the extended configuration.

30 5. The collapsible container of claim 2, the base member comprising a circular rim, the plurality of support members being circumferentially disposed on the rim, each of the support members having a first distal end and a second distal end connecting the support member to the rim, the support members being disposed so that one of the distal ends of a support member overlaps with one of the distal ends of an adjacent support member.

6. The collapsible container of claim 2 further comprising:

a plurality of stoppers circumferentially disposed on the rim, the stoppers adapted to prevent movement of the plurality of support members outside a predetermined area; and

5 means for hanging the container.

7. The collapsible container of claim 1:

the base member comprising a substantially planar back plate;

10 the at least one support member comprising a first brace and a second brace rotatably connected to the back plate, at least one depending support member each having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end rotatably connecting the depending support member to the first brace and the distal end being adapted to releasably engage the back plate; and

15 the means for bearing a load comprises at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the depending support members, the hook adapted to receive a portion of the second brace when the container is in the extended configuration.

8. The collapsible container of claim 1:

20 the base member comprising a substantially planar frame;

the plurality of support members comprising a first side frame , a second side frame, a first end frame and a second end frame; and

25 the means for bearing a load comprising at least one hook affixed to at least one of the support members, the hook adapted to receive a portion of one of the support members when the container is in the extended configuration.

9. The collapsible container of claim 8 wherein the container forms a substantially rectangular box when in the extended configuration.

10. The collapsible container of claim 7 further comprising three depending support members, the distal end of each comprising a hook adapted to releasably engage a corresponding aperture in the back plate, wherein the first brace, the second brace and the depending support members are curvilinear.

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11. A collapsible container comprising:

a base member;

a plurality of support members rotatably connected with the base member for articulating the container between a substantially flat configuration and an extended configuration for holding an object, the object exerting a load when placed in the container; and

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at least one hook having an open end affixed to at least one of the plurality of support members wherein at least one of the plurality of support members engages the at least one hook when the load is exerted on the plurality of support members, the at least one hook being adapted to resist movement of the engaging support member in a direction caused by the load.

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12. The collapsible container of claim 11, the base member comprising a circular rim and the plurality of support members are circumferentially disposed on the rim.

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13. The collapsible container of claim 12 wherein each of the plurality of support members comprising a semi-elliptical loop segment.

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14. The collapsible container of claim 12, each of the plurality of loop segments comprising a first distal end and a second distal end rotatably connecting the loop segment to the rim; and

the first and second distal ends of a loop segment being disposed in an overlapped relationship with the first and second distal ends of adjacent loop segments.

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15. The collapsible container of claim 13 further comprising:

an even number of support members wherein the at least one hook is
affixed to alternate support members so that each hook is engaged by an
adjacent support member when the container is in its extended configuration.

16. The collapsible container of claim 15 further comprising:

a plurality of stoppers circumferentially disposed on the rim, the stoppers
adapted to prevent movement of the plurality of support members outside a
predetermined area; and
means for hanging the container.

17. The collapsible container of claim 11:

the base member comprising a substantially planar back plate; and
the plurality of support members comprising a first support member
rotatably connected with the back plate for articulating the first support member
between a position that is in substantially the same plane defined by the back
plate and a position that is substantially perpendicular to the back plate.

18. The collapsible container of claim 17, the plurality of support
members further comprising:

a second support member rotatably connected with the back plate for
articulating the second support member between a position that is in substantially
the same plane defined by the back plate and a position that is oblique to the
back plate; and

at least one depending support member, the at least one depending
support member comprising a proximal end rotatably engaging the first support
member and a distal end adapted to releasably engage the back plate.

19. The collapsible container of claim 18 wherein the at least one hook is affixed to the at least one depending support member and adapted to receive a portion of the second support member.

- 5 20. The collapsible container of claim 11:
the base member comprising a substantially planar frame;
the plurality of support members comprising a first side frame , a second side frame, a first end frame and a second end frame; and
wherein the at least one hook is affixed to an upper end of at least one of
10 the plurality of support members.